

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PL

SUBJECT: POLAND WILL UTILIZE FULLY CCC CREDITS APPROVED FOR
FY 1977

1. SUMMARY: VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE HENRYK PRUCHNIEWICZ ON JANUARY 20 TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT POLAND WOULD FULLY UTILIZE CCC CREDITS APPROVED FOR FY 1977. THE VICE MINISTER SAID HE COULD ASSURE US THAT ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS WOULD BE CONCLUDED AND SHIPMENT EFFECTED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, IN ORDER TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE CCC CREDITS. THESE PURCHASES WOULD GO FOR U.S. WHEAT, PRUCHNIEWICZ SAID, SINCE CCC CREDITS FOR FEED GRAINS HAD ALREADY BEEN UTILIZED. END SUMMARY.

2. AT PRUCHNIEWICZ'S REQUEST, THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, CALLED ON THE VICE MINISTER ON JANUARY 26. PRUCHNIEWICZ SAID THE POLISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD ADVISED THE MINISTRY THAT USDA WAS CONCERNED THAT POLAND MIGHT NOT COMPLETE PURCHASES, PARTICULARLY FOR WHEAT, COVERED BY CCC CREDITS APPROVED FOR FY 1977. PRUCHNIEWICZ RECALLED THAT SIMILAR CONCERN HAD BEEN EXPRESSED LAST MAY DURING THE MEETING OF THE JOINT US-POLAND WORKING GROUP ON AGRI-
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CULTURE. HE SAID THAT, JUST AS HE HAD ASSURED THE US SIDE AT THAT TIME, THE POLES FULLY UTILIZED 1976 CREDITS FOR SOYBEANS AND SOY PRODUCTS. THE VICE MINISTER SAID HE WISHED TO GIVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES FOR WHEAT DURING THIS YEAR.

3. PRUCHNIEWICZ SAID THE MINISTRY HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS

TO POLISH FOREIGN TRADE COMPANIES THAT PURCHASES OF WHEAT OUTSIDE THE US BE DISCONTINUED. HE ADDED, "FRANKLY, WE ARE WAITING FOR THE PRICE DIFFERENTIAL ON US WHEAT TO DECLINE SOMEWHAT" BEFORE SIGNING THE REMAINING CONTRACTS. HE SAID THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND THIRD-COUNTRY PRICES FOR WHEAT HAD DECLINED RECENTLY FROM ABOUT \$15 TO AROUND \$8 PER TON AND THAT THIS DIFFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY NARROW EVEN MORE.

4. THE VICE MINISTER SAID CONTRACTS HAD STILL NOT BEEN CONCLUDED FOR \$77 MILLION OF PURCHASES OF GRAIN COVERED UNDER CCC CREDITS IN FY 77. WHEN ASKED IF THESE REMAINING PURCHASES WOULD BE MADE ENTIRELY FOR WHEAT, HE REPLIED, "YES, SINCE WE HAVE ALREADY USED CREDITS APPROVED FOR FEED GRAINS."

5. THE VICE MINISTER ASKED THAT HIS ASSURANCES BE TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

6. COMMENT: AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING, PRUCHNIEWICZ EMPHASIZED THE SATISFACTION OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AT BEING INCLUDED IN THE CCC PROGRAM AND AT THE HIGHER LEVEL OF CREDITS WHICH IT HAS RECEIVED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. HE LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT, WHILE THE GOP WANTS TO RETAIN A CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN THE TIMING OF ITS WHEAT PURCHASES, IT WILL DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN WHAT IT CONSIDERED TO BE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH USDA AND THE CCC CREDITS PROGRAM.
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END COMMENT.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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